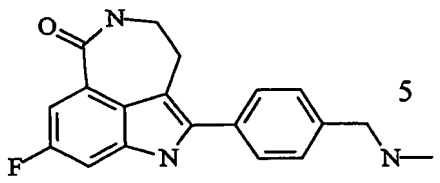
Claims

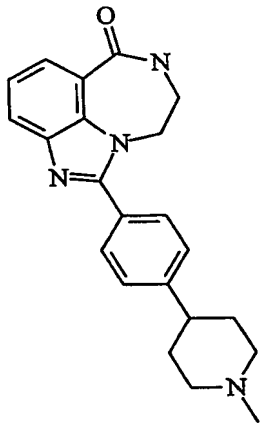
1. A compound for inhibiting the activity of PARP having formula I:



I

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

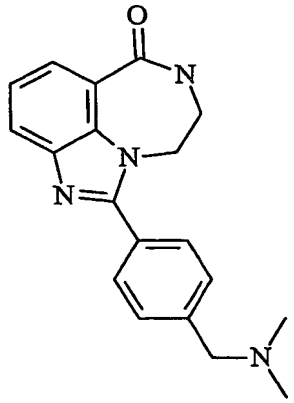
2. A compound for inhibiting the activity of PARP having formula II:



II

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

3. A compound for inhibiting the activity of PARP having formula

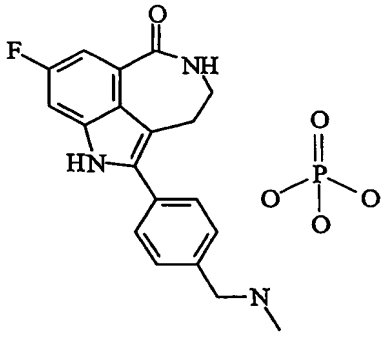


III

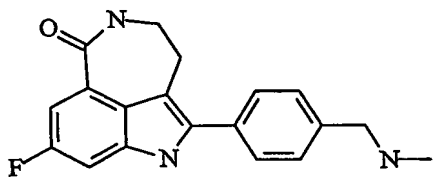
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

4. A compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is in the form of a phosphate salt of the following formula:

Formula I - phosphate

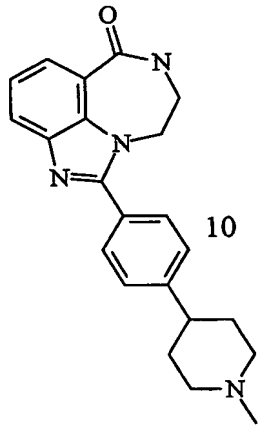


5. The use of a therapeutic amount of a compound of formula I, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament.



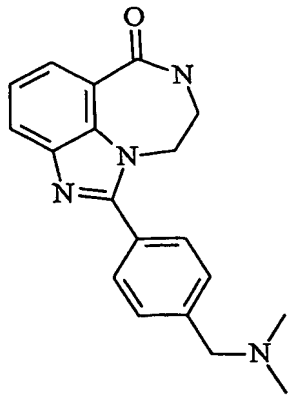
I

6. The use of a therapeutic amount of a compound of formula II, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament.



II

7. The use of a therapeutic amount of a compound of formula III, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament.



III

8. The use of a therapeutic amount of a compound of formula I, and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disease or condition that is caused by a genetic defect in a gene that mediates homologous recombination.

9. The use of a therapeutic amount of a compound of formula II, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disease or condition that is caused by a genetic defect in a gene that mediates homologous recombination.

10. The use of a therapeutic amount of a compound of formula III, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disease or condition that is caused by a genetic defect in a gene that mediates homologous recombination.

11. The use as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 10, wherein the defect is a gene encoding a protein involved in HR.

12. The use as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 10, wherein the defect is the absence of a gene encoding a protein involved in HR.

13. The use as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 10, wherein the defect is in the expression of a gene encoding a protein involved in HR.

14. The use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for inducing apoptosis in HR defective cells.

15. The use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula II, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for inducing apoptosis in the defective cells.

16. The use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula III, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for inducing apoptosis in the defective cells.

17. The use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer.

18. The use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula II, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer.

19. The use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula III, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer.

20. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 15 to 17, wherein the cancer is gene-linked hereditary cancer.

21. The use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer cells defective in BRCA1 and/or BRCA2 expression.

22. The use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula II, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer cells defective in BRCA1 and/or BRCA2 expression.

23. The use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula III, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer cells defective in BRCA1 and/or BRCA2 expression.

24. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 21 to 23, wherein the cancer cells to be treated are partially or totally deficient in BRCA1 and/or BRCA2 expression.

25. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I, and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as an active ingredient.

26. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula II, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as an active ingredient.

27. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula III and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as an active ingredient.

28. A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 25 to 27, wherein the composition further comprises at least one diluent and/or carrier together with at least one bulking agent.

29. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 28, wherein the carrier and/or diluent is selected from any of the following either alone or in combination, saline, buffered saline, dextrose, water, glycerol and ethanol.

30. A method for the treatment of cancer in mammals comprising administering a compound of formula I as described in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:

31. A method for the treatment of cancer in mammals comprising administering a compound of formula II as described in clam 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:

32. A method for the treatment of cancer in mammals comprising administering a compound of formula III as described in claim 3, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof: